

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 130 entitled “An act relating to the Agency of Public Safety”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. AGENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

8 (a) Creation. There is created the Agency of Public Safety Study
9 Committee to recommend whether the General Assembly should enact
10 legislation to create an Agency of Public Safety.

11 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
12 11 members:

13 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
16 Committee on Committees;

17 (3) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

18 (4) the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife or designee;

19 (5) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee;

20 (6) the Commissioner of Liquor Control or designee;

1 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training

2 Council or designee;

3 (8) the Chief of the Capitol Police Department or designee;

4 (9) a sheriff appointed by the Executive Committee of the Vermont

5 Sheriffs' Association;

6 (10) a chief of a municipal police department, appointed by the Chiefs of

7 Police Association of Vermont; and

8 (11) one law enforcement officer appointed by the Vermont Police

9 Association.

10 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the current coordination
11 of law enforcement services in the State and whether the creation of an Agency
12 of Public Safety would enhance that coordination. In its study, the Committee
13 shall consider the following issues:

14 (1) Current law enforcement services. The current roles and duties of
15 law enforcement officers in the State, including:

16 (A) how the types of crimes committed in this State have evolved,
17 and how that evolution has affected the roles and duties of law enforcement
18 officers;

19 (B) the manner in which State, county, and municipal law
20 enforcement entities share or coordinate their services;

1 (C) whether the Vermont State Police’s provision of general
2 municipal and regional law enforcement services is sustainable; and

3 (D) whether any municipalities should be required to maintain their
4 own police department or contract for regional policing with other
5 municipalities or with sheriffs.

6 (2) Dispatch. The manner in which dispatch services are currently
7 provided and funded and whether there should be any changes to this structure.

8 (3) Agency structure. If the Committee recommends that an Agency of
9 Public Safety should be created, the Agency’s structure, including:

10 (A) any issues with the proposed structure or operations of
11 the Agency as set forth in this act as it was originally introduced
12 (2015, H.130); and

13 (B) the entities that should be under the jurisdiction of the Agency,
14 including whether any of the following entities should be added to the Agency:

15 (i) the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council;

16 (ii) wardens of the Department of Fish and Wildlife;

17 (iii) the Capitol Police Department;

18 (iv) liquor control investigators; or

19 (v) motor vehicle inspectors.

1 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
2 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
3 Office.

4 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2016, the Committee shall report to
5 the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations with its findings
6 and any recommendations for legislative action. The report may be in the form
7 of proposed legislation.

8 (f) Meetings.

9 (1) The House and Senate members of the Committee shall call the first
10 meeting of the Committee, to occur on or before August 1, 2016.

11 (2) The House and Senate members shall be co-chairs of the Committee.

12 (3)(A) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

13 (B) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 172, an action may be taken by the
14 Committee with the assent of a majority of the members attending, assuming a
15 quorum.

16 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 2, 2016.

17 (g) Reimbursement.

18 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
19 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
20 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
21 no more than five meetings.

1 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
2 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
3 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
4 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than five meetings.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

10

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE